

MERCURY SPILL CLEANUP PROCEDURE FOR BROKEN FLUORESCENT LAMPS

Fluorescent lamps contain a small amount of mercury, which may pose a hazard to human health or the environment when broken. A single broken lamp contains only a few milligrams of mercury, in the form of powder, liquid, and vapor, and should not present a serious health risk when properly cleaned up. If there are several fluorescent lamps on the premises have a mercury spill kit on hand in the event of an emergency. A list of spill kit vendors can be viewed at <http://des.nh.gov/nhcpp/options.htm#vendors>. If several fluorescent lamps break at once, contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Special Investigations Section at (603) 271-3899 for assistance.

Cleanup Procedure:

1. Isolate the area around all broken material so that the mercury powder is not tracked, or otherwise spread, to other areas. Cease all other activities and keep the spill area contained and off limits until all broken material and contaminated surfaces have been cleaned.
2. Turn off all fans, heating ventilation and air conditioning systems, or anything that could spread mercury vapors or powder to other areas. Open all accessible windows, provided that there is not a strong breeze, to ventilate the area.
3. Wear latex or nitrile gloves during cleanup of the mercury powder and breakage. Do not touch uncontaminated items with the gloves once the gloves have come into contact with the mercury powder or contaminated items.
4. Pick up broken glass and place the pieces in a puncture resistant container. Use tweezers to safely pick up the broken glass.
5. Mercury powder can be carefully swept up with a damp cloth or a small dustpan and brush.
6. Adhesive tape can be used to pick up any remaining small pieces of glass and powder residue.
7. Place all broken glass, powder, tape, and other cleanup materials in a sturdy, sealed plastic or glass container. Dispose of any contaminated clothes, footwear, fabric, etc., by placing them in a plastic bag for disposal and seal properly. Store the containers in a secure place while awaiting disposal.
8. Carefully remove the gloves by turning them inside out to take them off. This will trap any mercury powder remaining on the gloves.
8. Shower as soon as possible after the cleanup procedure.
9. Let the area air dry, and if possible, thoroughly ventilate the spill area using outside air.
11. Upon completing cleanup, contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Special Investigations Section at (603) 271-3899 to determine if you need to file a spill report.